

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 10 PARA 2(A) OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TOCY, AR, UK

SUBJECT: R/V MELVILLE CLEARANCE REQUEST, 17 NOV - 24 DEC
1978

1. R/V MELVILLE, A PRIVATE VESSEL OPERATED BY SCRIPPS
INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL
SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT MARINE SCI-
ENTIFIC RESEARCH OFF THE FALKLAND (MALVINAS) ISLANDS.
THE RESEARCH IS WITHIN 3 N.M. OF THE COAST AND SINCE THE
ISLANDS ARE JOINTLY CLAIMED BY THE UK AND ARGENTINA THE
U.S. DOES NOT WANT TO PREJUDICE EITHER COUNTRY'S CLAIM.
THEREFORE, EMBASSIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES ARE REQUESTED TO
PROCESS CLEARANCE REQUESTS TO THE HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2.(A) THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO INVESTIGATE THE
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CHARACTERISTICS AND FLOW OF THE ABYSSAL WATERS OF THE

SOUTHWESTERN PART OF THE ARGENTINE BASIN AND THE AREA
BETWEEN THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS AND THE MID-ATLANTIC
RIDGE. MEASUREMENTS WILL BE MADE ON SEVERAL SHORT NORTH-
SOUTH SECTIONS NORTH OF THE MALVINAS PLATEAU, ON TWO LINES
EXTENDING FROM THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS TO THE MID-

ATLANTIC RIDGE, AND IN THE SOUTH SANDWICH TRENCH AND SCOTIA SEA. A SHIP'S TRACK IS BEING POUCHED.

(B) DATA TO BE COLLECTED INCLUDES WATER CHEMISTRY, CURRENT VELOCITY, WATER TEMPERATURE, AND PLANKTON DISTRIBUTION. EQUIPMENT INCLUDES A NANSEN WATER SAMPLER, PLANKTON NETS, AND CURRENT METERS.

3. THE CHIEF SCIENTIST IS J. L. REID OF SCRIPPS WITH A SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 30. BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TWO SCIENTISTS FROM EACH HOST COUNTRY WHO WOULD EMBARK AT PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE, ON 17 NOV AND DISEMBARK ON 24 DEC. AT PUNTA ARENAS. ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE FREELY SHARED.

4. SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS ALBERT ARSENAULT WITH A CREW OF 20. MELVILLE IS 1806 GROSS TONS, 245 FT. LONG WITH A 16 FT. DRAFT. RADIO CALL SIGN IS WECB AND SHIP MONITORS 500 HZ AND 2182 KHZ AT SEA.

5. ACTION: EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK PERMISSION FOR R/V MELVILLE TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF BRITISH AND ARGENTINE CLAIMED FALKLAND ISLANDS DURING PERIOD 17 NOV - 24 DEC 1978. CHRISTOPHER

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